GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2535
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
DELAY IN DEVELOPMENT OF WEAPONS EQUIPMENTS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in developing the battle tanks, missiles, light combat aircraft and other systems by the DRDO;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and number of years that have taken place in respect of each of these items;

(c) whether any of these items is ready at present to induct in the armed forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) There have been certain delays in major state-of-the-art systems, (costing Rs. 100 crore and above), undertaken by DRDO.These systems are: Main Battle Tank (MBT) `Arjun`, Guided Missiles, Light Combat Aircraft `Tejas`, Kaveri engine for Tejas, Integrated Electronic Warfare (EW) system for Army Samyukta and EW systems for Navy Sangraha.

(e) The time taken for indigenous development of these complex systems has been about 20 years for MBT Arjun, LCA Tejas and some of the missiles of IGMDP whereas, for other systems it is about 10 years. The main reasons for delays are listed below:-

- Technological complexities and other problems related to technological development.
- Insufficient industrial infrastructure within the country.
- Non-availability of materials, indigenous components and devices.
- Technology sanctions and embargoes imposed on our R&D establishments and industries.
- Upgradation of qualitative requirements and scope of the projects mid-stream by user Services.
- Long and extended user trials over several years.

(c) & (d): From the projects amongst IGMDP, Prithvi missile for Army is under regular production and it has been inducted into Service. Development work on Prithvi for Air Force has been completed.Naval version Dhanush has been accepted for induction by Navy. Agni class of missiles are in production and induction phase. BrahMos, a joint development missile system, has been accepted for induction by Navy. Samyukta (com segment) has been successfully evaluated by Army. Sub-systems of Sangraha have been inducted by user Services. The other major systems like Tejas, Kaveri engine for Tejas, Trishul, Akash and Nag missiles are in advanced stages of evaluation.